

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on January 14, 2008, in this application. Claims 1, 4-15, and 17-19 are presented for examination. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, which was previously indicated as allowable if re-written in independent form. Claim 14 has been amended to correct the phrase “extrusion dice” to “extrusion die.” No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Watson (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0136509).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of former claim 3, which the outstanding Office action indicates would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claim 10 is a dependent claim depending from claim 1, and the rejection of claim 10 should therefore also be withdrawn, for at least this reason.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Masahiro (JP2001021781) in view of Watson.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of former claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated is patentable over the prior art, including Masahiro and Watson. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. As claims 4-11 are dependent claims depending from claim 1, the rejections of these claims should also be withdrawn, for at least this reason.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 12-15 and 17-19 are allowed, and that claim 3 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. As previously noted, the subject matter of claim 3 has now been incorporated into independent claim 1, and claim 3 has been cancelled.

Conclusion

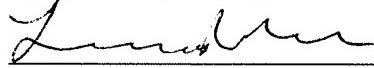
In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Please charge any fee that may be due or credit any overpayment to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, he is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 14, 2008


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